

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS – PLYMOUTH DISTRICT
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**DA CRUZ TO KIDS: CARRY YOUR CYBER SENSE WITH YOUR DEVICES
THIS SCHOOL YEAR AND THINK BEFORE YOU TYPE**

BROCKTON – With more and more school districts requiring students to bring their own devices to school, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz is reminding returning students to use their cyber sense this school year and think before they type.

“As members of a school community, students are expected to follow rules to be caring, respectful and safe,” DA Cruz said. “These same principles need to be remembered by kids every day when they are online and using their devices.”

The digital age has taken over and technology can now be found in most every classroom. New mobile communication devices like iPhones, smartphones and tablets have become extremely popular. At first, these devices provided a way to keep in touch with family and friends, but now many schools have worked the devices into their curriculums. There are countless benefits to the advancements, but with these come risks as well. A student’s behavior online could produce lasting effects that facilitate cyber bullying, dating violence, and even criminal charges.

“Smartphones are great to take a picture of the homework, map out a schedule or research the biology project, but students need to be mindful that misuse of technology can cross the line and put them or others in danger,” DA Cruz said. “The best way to stay on top of ever-changing technology is to be educated and rely on good old-fashioned common sense when using your device.”

DA Cruz offers these tips for students and parents:

- Less is sometimes more. Limit sharing your personal information when online and allow only people you know in real life to follow you.
- Always remember to think first, type second. Never send an email, IM or text message in anger.

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- Be sure to set your privacy settings. Social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and SnapChat are never 100% secure.
- If you receive an inappropriate picture, do not panic and do not forward the image. Find a trusted adult to speak with about the matter.
- Most school systems now have an electronic device policy in place that students and parents should familiarize themselves with.

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